

MISSOURI SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL

*Advising the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on
Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*

Chair

Bev Woodhurst

Vice Chair

Ray Wicks

Secretary

Lynda Roberts

To Whom It May Concern:

This annual report of the Missouri Special Education Advisory Panel is respectfully submitted for public review. The past year has been another exceptional year in collaboration between the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Division of Special Education, and the panel members across the state of Missouri. The panel participated in challenging discussions, learned new updates within the department, and welcomed new faces to the panel.

Over the last year, the state implemented new programs to aid and support the administration throughout Missouri's school districts to better educate Missouri's children in the public school system as well as private and homeschooled children. Virtual schools were implemented in August with 109 of the 114 counties in Missouri participating. There were many discussions of year end exams, assessments, and testing that everyone was updated on throughout the year.

The panel continued to look at each subcommittee and the charge for each one, responsibilities for each, and reporting duties at each meeting held. Each panel member participates in at least one subcommittee group within the panel to provide a more broad, educated vision to what the department has done and will be looking to do in the years to come.

Once again, it was a great year for the panel and the members involved. The panel greatly appreciates all the support, education, and information provided from the department and staff and all those that came and presented to the panel throughout the past year. Thanks to Heidi Atkins Lieberman for her excellent views and suggestions at every meeting and her willingness to be committed to the panel and its collaboration with the department. Thanks to Lina Browner for her amazing organizational skills and ability to keep everyone updated and informed on what is taking place, in addition to making sure all accommodations are made for those participating.

Advisory panel meetings are open to the public and we encourage anyone with an interest in special education in Missouri to participate or sit in on a meeting.

If you have needs addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act and need an alternate format of this letter, please call 573-751-5739 and efforts will be made to accommodate your needs.

Sincerely,

Beverly Woodhurst
Chairperson